

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE NATO SUMMIT

REF: STATE 81406

1. POLCOUNS SAW MFA'S NATO DIRECTOR APRIL 10 TO ELICIT DUTCH THINKING RE NATO SUMMIT AND CONVEY POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. DCM WILL BE DISCUSSING SUBJECT WITH MFA'S POL DIRECTOR APRIL 11.

2. RECALLING THAT ORIGINAL IDEA WAS TO TIE NATO SUMMIT TO CSCE, NATO DIRECTOR SAID GON HASN'T MADE UP ITS MIND ABOUT A MAY 29-30 SUMMIT, TIMING OF WHICH WOULDN'T BE GOOD IN TERMS OF CSCE. DUTCH WONDER WHAT OTHER SUBJECTS COULD USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED. WOULD A MAY SUMMIT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE BY CREATING THE IMPRESSION THAT NATO IS IN A CRISIS? AT APRIL EC POL DIRECTORS' MEETING IN DUBLIN, BRITISH HAD REFERRED TO SUMMIT AS "MUTUAL REASSURANCE EXERCISE". FRENCH HAD SHOWN THEMSELVES VERY RETICENT ABOUT A SUMMIT.

3. DIRECTOR NOTED DUTCH NOT OPPOSED TO SUMMIT IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAVE ALWAYS FELT SUMMITS SHOULD BE WELL PREPARED AND HELD ONLY IF SIGNIFICANT RESULTS COULD BE ASSURED. HE SAID GON TO LARGE EXTENT WILL BE GUIDED BY US PREFERENCE AS LONG AS THERE IS CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT IS
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GOING TO BE ACHIEVED. DUTCH, HE SAID, DON'T WANT A

SUMMIT TO BE MERELY A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE SCHEDULED
MINISTERIAL MEETING.

4. DIRECTOR LISTENED CAREFULLY TO POINTS CONTAINED
REFTEL, BUT IT APPEARS THAT DUTCH WILL NEED MORE
CONVINCING RATIONALE FOR MAY SUMMIT AND AT MOMENT WOULD
PREFER SUMMIT BE HELD CLOSER TO THIRD PHASE OF CSCE,
EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER HELSINKI.
GOULD

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